REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 7 are canceled and claim 2 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 3.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicant requests the Examiner to initial and return PTO Form 1449 filed with the March 4, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the PTO 1449 is attached here for the Examiner's convenience.

The Office Action objects to claims 2 and 3. Claim 2 is amended to obviate this objection.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,880,013 to Chio and claims 2 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,961,467 to Shimazo et al. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 3 and claims 1, 3 and 7 have been canceled. Thus, these rejections are moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton

Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/ksz

Attachment:

March 4, 2005 PTO Form 1449

Date: June 16, 2005

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)			e E	ATTY D 117922	OCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO. 10/724,086			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT									
(Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANTS Kiyoyuki NARIMATSU					
					DATE er 1, 2003	GROUP 3736			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	1	DATE	NAMI	E		CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1.	6,315,734 B1	11/13/2001 03/19/1991		Tomohiro NUNOME				
	2.	5,000,188			Osamu KOJIMA				
				_					
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE		COUNTRY			CLASS	SUB CLASS
	3.	JP-A-2000-139859 w/ abst. & trans.	05/23/2000		JAPAN				
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)									
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EXAMINER		_			DATE CONSIDERED				
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.									

Date: March 4, 2005